5. Factors affecting the riparian zone.

	Condition Category											
SRC Indicator	**Relatively Unaltered**			**Somewhat Altered**			**Altered**			**Severely Altered**		
5. Factors affecting the riparian zone (0-50 ft zone)	No pollution[1] or other factors affecting riparian zone condition within reach. (a) Stream is not channelized and no pollution empties into riparian zone. (b) All stormwater detention basins and ponds, if present, are adequately designed and maintained to reduce peak flows and trap sediment and nutrients. [Presence of clippings or organic waste in floodplain scores 45.]			Pollution[1] or other factorssomewhat affecting riparian zone. (a) Stream is not channelized and water from properly designed and maintained detention facilities empties into riparian zone. (b) Stream is channelized and drainage or stormwater is discharged (or diverted) to riparian zone where it is detained and processed before entering stream. [Forested riparian zone scores higher than other cover types.]			Pollution[1] or other factorsaffecting riparian zone. (a) Stream not channelized and pollution enters directly into riparian zone of reach. (b) Stream is channelized, but no stormwater is diverted to riparian zone. (c) 5-25% of riparian zone (0-50 ft) of reach filled, graded, cultivated, or covered with impervious surface. (d) Combined sewer and storm drain system occurs within riparian zone. [Presence of more categories or greater intensities score lower.]			Especially egregious pollution[1] or other factors affecting riparian zone. (a) More than 25% of riparian zone of reach graded, filled, excavated, cultivated, covered with impervious surface, or converted to other non-forested land cover. (b) Septic or sewer system leaking into riparian zone. (c) Hydrocarbons or other toxic chemicals leaking into riparian zone. [Lack of forest in riparian zone scores lower.]		
Score (L) =	Left Bank:	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
Score (R) =	Right Bank:	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0

This indicator currently applies to both sides from top of bank to 50 feet landward in lower order streams and to 90 feet in higher order streams.

a) Riparian corridors are often locations of sewage lines in urban environments. These right-of-ways are maintained for maintenance traffic. The removal of vegetation, especially trees and shrubs, reduces the capacity of the system to retain nutrients and toxicants. Presence of sewer line and storm drains is listed under the 'altered' category.
b) Extent of culverts (that replaced stream headwaters) is difficult to evaluate in the field because the length of the original channel may be difficult to estimate. At the catchment scale, however, and by using GIS data, truncation of streams can be estimated by comparing drainage density (km stream /km^2 of catchment). Of course, this is not a field measurement, but the information can be used to supplement a rapid assessment evaluation.